

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

SOME CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROTESTANT CONTROVERSIALISTS.

From the N. Y. Nation.

The controversy about the Bible in the schools is rapidly spreading. In this State it promises to furnish, before very long, one of the most exciting political issues we have ever had, owing to the unscrupulousness displayed by the Catholics in obtaining from the Albany Legislature large votes of money—amounting in the present year to half a million of dollars for the support of their schools. Their success in this sort of operation, too, not unnaturally renders them less disposed than ever to aid their Protestant neighbors in the discovery of a modus vivendi on the school question. They do not care whether Bible-reading in the public schools is abandoned, and, indeed, show some signs of being as much opposed to it as the High Protestant party, who consider the Bible-reading one of the most important parts of the school curriculum. As long as the Bible is read at the opening of the school exercises, and is read for the reasons assigned by Judge Storer in the recent decision of the Superior Court in Cincinnati, and by some Protestant clergy, the priests have an argument in favor of separate Catholic schools, and nothing in the discovery of a modus vivendi on the school question. They do not care whether Bible-reading in the public schools is abandoned, and, indeed, show some signs of being as much opposed to it as the High Protestant party, who consider the Bible-reading one of the most important parts of the school curriculum. As long as the Bible is read at the opening of the school exercises, and is read for the reasons assigned by Judge Storer in the recent decision of the Superior Court in Cincinnati, and by some Protestant clergy, the priests have an argument in favor of separate Catholic schools, and nothing in the discovery of a modus vivendi on the school question.

adequate protection for all such journalists as deserve to be protected. Treasonable writing is in practice very easily separable from the strongest writing that is not treasonable. It may not be so in countries which are not under constitutional government, because in these all attack the system of rule is to attack the person of the ruler. But among ourselves there is a perfectly appreciable difference between attacking this or that law, or agitating for this or that change, and advocating treason. The seditious press of Ireland has never attempted to keep within any well-drawn line. It has scorned the idea of caution and accustomed its readers from the beginning to the very strongest possible meats. Exhortations to throw off the English yoke and easy lessons in insurrectionary warfare have been its staple teaching all along. That the claims which give its proprietors a right of action by way of redress for annihilation will remain a dead letter is likely enough; but it will remain so, not because there is any difficulty in getting damages when the Government has made a mistake, but because the character of the condemned journals will be so unmistakable that no effort will be equal to the task of establishing their loyalty.

Another objection alleged against this part of the bill is that it ruins the innocent printers and lets the guilty writers escape. But in political offences, even more than in any others, the primary object of punishment is the safety of the community. We have never very much respect for the thin-end-of-the-wedge style of argument, and in this case it seems to be more than ordinarily destitute of force. If the press were a declining power in this country, with enemies and rivals rising up around it and threatening to supersede its influence, there might be some excuse for such fears. But, instead of this, the press is daily arrogating to itself more and more the functions which were formerly discharged by Parliament, by the Church, and by the law courts. Newspapers have become a necessary of modern life, and those who provide them have all the strength which belongs to the exclusive possessors of a commodity in universal demand. But if there are any timid souls who still look on a free press as a precarious blessing that may be snatched from them at any moment, we commend two considerations to their notice. The worst enemy of journalism is the man who would substitute insurrection for discussion. Amid the din of civil strife newspapers as well as laws are necessarily silent. If the Government cherished a secret desire to put a bridle upon English journalism, their true policy would be to let a certain section of Irish journalists have its own way, and bring about the end for which it labors.

Further, it must be remembered that the seditious press of Ireland differs from most of its predecessors in that or any other country, in being a preacher of murder, not of rebellion—of murder which cannot even be dignified with the name of political assassination. By common consent a newspaper which attacks private character loses the immunities with which it is invested so long as it restricts itself to the region of public affairs. The lives of individuals are, to say the least, not less sacred than their characters; and even the fanatics who maintain that the tyrannicide should go unpunished will hardly assert the same liberty for the preachers of agrarian massacre. Perhaps the best argument for the press clauses of the Peace Preservation bill is that the journalists who will suffer under them have already forsaken their calling to become the panderers of private revenge.

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Down! Down! Down! During the whole nine years of radical rule! The proudest, freest, most enlightened, prosperous, and happy nation on the globe in 1860. The lowest, basest, poorest, most utterly brutalized and enslaved, and most wretchedly degraded and degraded by the descendants of the Washington, Randolphs, Hamptons, and Lees! A Pennsylvania nigger befouling the seat of Picketts and Pinckney, on the Supreme Bench of South Carolina! A nigger barber scrawling his boorish X mark to the legislative enactments of Louisiana, as Lieutenant Governor, and President of the State Senate! A nigger cabin boy signing the commissions of Congressmen, Sheriffs, and Circuit Judges, as Secretary of State of Mississippi! And a thievish nigger preacher grinning and combing his lousy wool in the place once filled by the hero, statesman, and patriot, Jefferson Davis, in the United States Senate, so called, while a leprous, ulcer-eaten Senator and ex-Governor conspires with his associate blackguards and the country on the change! God of the ruined and the desolate! Was ever a people so fallen before? Men of the North! Men of the South! Americans! Countrymen! Fellow slaves! Awake! Arise! Shake off your lethargy, and face the Truth! Give the hellions who've wrought the horrid change a little longer lease of power, and no Gabriel in all the wide universe, though he should split his mighty boiler, can ever sound a blast powerful enough to rescue us from the tenfold political death and damnation to which we're doomed! Cease your dastardly truckling and yielding to the death-deserving conspirators who have usurped the Government! Cease your infamous temporizing, your cringing and your fawning! Set your face, like stubborn steel, against them and all their accursed schemes!

CLOSE THE BOOKS!

Yesterday, the colored men of our city celebrate, by procession, followed by a public meeting, the completion of the good work of their emancipation by the ratification of the fifteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution. We ardently trust that all may unite in the fervent hope that the rights won for the black race may be so exercised as to benefit not themselves only, but our whole people.

THE SECOND THING PROTESTANTS HAVE TO DO, IF THEY MEAN TO BRING THIS CONTROVERSY TO A REASONABLE AND SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT WITHIN THE LIFETIME OF THE PRESENT GENERATION, IS TO AVOID TALKING OF AND TREATING CATHOLICS AS NECESSARILY ENEMIES OF FREE GOVERNMENT, AND THEIR RELIGION AS INCOMPATIBLE WITH TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE IN WHICH THEY LIVE.

The second thing Protestants have to do, if they mean to bring this controversy to a reasonable and satisfactory settlement within the lifetime of the present generation, is to avoid talking of and treating Catholics as necessarily enemies of free government, and their religion as incompatible with true allegiance to the State in which they live. One bears a good deal of this just now from the pulpit as well as from the platform, and it is both misleading and inexpedient. Nothing can be more absurd, for instance, as well as unfair, than Mr. Hepworth's performance in citing the Pope's Encyclical and the appended Syllabus by way of proving that Catholics are not likely to be good citizens, or are likely to bear divided allegiance, or, in case of a conflict of authority, to side with the Pope rather than with the American Government. All that the Encyclical proves, in the eyes of the best observers, is what the proceedings at the General Council are proving every day, that the Pope is a very simple-minded and somewhat fanatical old monk, in the hands of very bad advisers, composed, in the main, of Roman Jesuits. The anxiety the most enlightened Catholics feel about his

more years to banish the last vestiges of human chattelhood from tropical America; but the end is no longer doubtful nor remote. The dawn of the next century will irradiate no slave-lut in Christendom. For what has been achieved, as also for its fruits not yet realized, let universal thanksgivings ascend to God. The Millennium is not here, and not likely soon to be. Injustice, oppression, and tyranny—fraud, prodigality, and misery—still darken the earth. Sensuality and iniquity abound. Corruption and prodigality profane the high places of the land. Abject poverty and brutal ignorance are still the lot of millions, even in this boasted land of freedom and opportunity. Yet it is very much to have established firmly the principle that the law is no good man's enemy, if the State is yet unable to lift all men up, it no longer holds any down. The child born to-morrow in the most squalid hovel may yet become President of the United States.

And now is the time to seal our great triumph by enacting and proclaiming universal amnesty. Our civil war virtually closed with Lee's surrender five years ago. No armed force has marched or fired a shot under the flag of the Southern Confederacy since May, 1865. There are bad men who still commit outrages; there is not, and for years has not been, any open, embodied resistance to the Federal authority and laws. It is high time that every one who is willing to accept the penalty still imposed over him for anything done or threatened in the interest and under the flag of the Rebellion.

We ought for our own sakes to identify universal amnesty with impartial suffrage. We ought to make one the complement of the other, so that they should henceforth have a common vitality, a common longevity. We ought to be able to say, "The edifice is crowned; the work is complete; henceforth, we to him who recklessly disturbs and imperils it!" There are still heart-burnings at the South. There are men who lament the fall of the Confederacy, and do not love the flag of the Union. Proscription and disfranchisement are the ailments whereon their morbid feelings subsist. They are (in effect) patents of nobility in the eyes of a class respectable in numbers and strong in social position. To say of a Southerner, "His cannot vote; he is forbidden to hold office," is to invest him with a peculiar and often envied distinction. His children take up the quarrel which a mistaken policy fastens upon him; they are trained to hate the Government which brands him as unworthy the rights of a citizen, and to detest the race with whose enfranchisement his proscription is in their minds identified. We can never have genuine peace while we still hold many thousands as virtual prisoners of war.

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NO CURE, NO PAY.—FORRESTER'S JUNIPER TAR. For Coughs, Croup, Whooping Cough, Asthma, Bronchitis, Sore Throat, Spitting of Blood, and Lung Diseases.

WARDALE G. MCALLISTER, Attorney and Counselor at Law, No. 91 BROADWAY, New York.

FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFE THE LAST GREAT FIRE IN GALVESTON. Herring's Safes All Right in Every Instance. FULL PARTICULARS.

NUMBER ONE. GALVESTON, TEXAS, March 1, 1870. Messrs. HERRING, FARREL & SHERMAN, New York.

Dear Sirs:—The fire which occurred during the night of the 25th ultimo destroyed the brick building in which we had our office.

The safe in our use was one of our PATENT CHAMPIONS, so justly celebrated; it fell from the second story on to the face, among Coal Oil and Turpentine, which was still burning when we undertook to open it THIRTY SIX HOURS after the fire; it had, therefore, during that time been subjected to a most INTENSE HEAT; much to our surprise, we opened it with the key and found our books, papers, etc., in REMARKABLY GOOD ORDER.

We are satisfied from the test to which our safe was put that YOUR PATENT SAFES ARE PREFERABLE TO ALL OTHERS for resisting the action of fire. Respectfully yours, BURNETT & WALL.

NUMBER TWO. GALVESTON, TEXAS, March 1, 1870. Messrs. HERRING, FARREL & SHERMAN, New York.

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We are satisfied from the test to which our safe was put that YOUR PATENT SAFES ARE PREFER